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CHARLES BAUDELAIRE: *Œuvres complètes*. Présentées et annotées par Philippe Auvier. 246pp. Paris: Grasset. 15fr.

Although Baudelaire's strait-laced family could not entirely close their eyes to the fact that he was a famous man, his celebrity was not of a kind they could appreciate—it was too different from the dear General's—and they never managed to rid themselves of the idea that he was something of a black sheep. This did not prevent them from sedulously hoarding his letters. The correspondence eventually came into the possession of a collateral relative, a pious spinster named Marie-Anne Ducevois who lived near the church of Saint-Sulpice and who when asked by mischievous nephews about "cousin Baudelaire" used to cover her face with her hands, murmuring: "Quelle horreur! Quelle horreur!" Since she did not wish, in her own words, to house the devil, she destroyed a large number of the letters which seemed damaging to the family reputation and handed over the remainder to Jacques Crépét for publication.

M. Auvier remarks in his introduction that Baudelaire's work has been so intensively studied—even the laundry and restaurant bills have yielded their fruits—that after a century nothing short of a miracle could have added to what had already come down to us. The "miracle" occurred. The house where some of Baudelaire's letters were preserved was bombed during the last war. Ten years later workmen were rebuilding the walls discovered a batch of documents carefully wrapped in grease-proof paper. "A hundred new Baudelaire letters!"

Well, not quite perhaps. The

present volume contains ninety-five letters, all but four of which were written by Baudelaire: forty to his half-brother Claude-Alphonse; forty-four to his mother; five to his stepfather; and a letter of apology to the master who was responsible for his expulsion from the Lycée Louis-le-Grand. Of the remaining four, three are from Claude-Alphonse to Baudelaire and one to the headmaster of Louis-le-Grand to announce his stepson's expulsion. (Although M. Auvier does not say so, this letter had already been published by Jules Monquet and is quoted in full in the revised edition of Dr. Enid Starkie's biography of the poet.)

The bulk of the letters were written when Baudelaire was between the ages of eleven and twenty. They fill a gap in the *Correspondance générale*, which contains comparatively few early letters, and add something to the existing picture of Baudelaire as a child and a young man. He was certainly happier and on much better terms with his family during these years than he was ever to be again. In later life he spoke in bitterly disparaging terms of his half-brother who was a successful lawyer, refused to visit him when he knew he was on what proved to be his deathbed, and did not bother to attend his funeral. He writes affectionately to his "big brother" who was sixteen years older than himself, upbraids him when he does not reply, and when he is only eleven remarks, amusingly, that fear

of the cholera epidemic seems to have made Claude-Alphonse forget his French grammar. "Pourtant," he adds, "je ne veux pas le citer en fautes, parce que voir le cadet se faire l'orthographe à l'aise serait le monde renversé." At this period he was not merely well disposed, but very well disposed towards his stepfather, was continually sending him messages or enquiring about his health in letters to his mother, while a letter written to the General himself when Baudelaire was seventeen ends with the words: "Adieu. Je t'adore."

Although he was already battling against a laziness which was to become endemic, Baudelaire took his studies seriously. The main subject of the letters is his prowess at school: When asked about the contents by the headmaster, he laughed in his face. Writing to the General, the headmaster said:

Je vous renvoie donc ce jeune homme, qui doit donc de moyens assez remarquables, mais qui a tout gâté par un très mauvais esprit dont le bon ordre du collège a en plus d'une fois souffert. There is little in the letters about literature. In the letter just quoted he goes on to express his contempt for Eugene Sue and his admiration for Victor Hugo and Sainte-Beuve's *Volupté*. He was to change his mind about Hugo, but his admiration for *Volupté* and its author remained. He never cared for nature and we find him declaring, in a letter to his half-brother, that "the banks of the Loire scarcely deserve their reputation."

The discipline at the lycée seems to have been more than strict. The poet writes to his parents from time to time to tell them not to visit him on a free day because he has been kept in. There are also signs at a very early age of incipient rebellion. Shortly before his twelfth birthday he writes to his half-brother: "Je suis dans les nuages. Je ne veux pas être de ces lâches qui craignent de déplaire aux pères," and signs the letter: "Le petit cadet. Charles."

This attitude must have played a part in his expulsion seven years later. The incident remains somewhat obscure. According to the headmaster's letter to Aupick, Baudelaire was caught passing a note in class. His reply to the master's demand to surrender the note was to tear it up and swallow the pieces. When asked about the contents by the headmaster, he laughed in his face. Writing to the General, the headmaster said:

Je vous renvoie donc ce jeune homme, qui doit donc de moyens assez remarquables, mais qui a tout gâté par un très mauvais esprit dont le bon ordre du collège a en plus d'une fois souffert. Some biographers have suggested that the note might have been connected with a "question de dictionnaire" or an "amitié particulière". If this had been suspected, some hint would surely have reached the General who in that case would hardly have been as indulgent to his stepson over the affair as he appears to have been.

The picture changes suddenly a few months before Baudelaire's twentieth

birthday. His financial situation is grim: he already owes 3,000 francs. He writes to his mother for assistance. He writes to his mother for assistance. He writes to his mother for assistance.

Handwritten: "Je suis dans les nuages. Je ne veux pas être de ces lâches qui craignent de déplaire aux pères," and signs the letter: "Le petit cadet. Charles."

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R. J. MOORE: *Sir Charles Wood's Indian Policy 1833-66*. 284pp. Manchester University Press. £2 5s.

Except for those students of Indian history who specialize in the period immediately before and after the Sepoy Rebellion, Sir Charles Wood is remembered mainly as the author of the great education despatch of July, 1854, which laid the foundations of a new system which shaped the course of Indian nationhood and has survived, in many essentials, the termination of the British rule that it was planned to underpin. The late Sir Philip Hartog, whose services in adapting this system to twentieth-century requirements have been the beginning of a new era of democratic administration in India. It is the great merit of Dr. Moore's careful and scholarly study that it sets Wood's work in its proper perspective, and while in no way detracting from his acknowledged merits, exhibits them as only for her "habitués" of a progressive policy which changed, and changed for the better, almost every aspect of the administration of India by her British rulers. In this connexion it should be noted that Dr. Moore's painstaking and exhaustive study of the original documents on the education of India shows and observes that "a child of the century or even a young man would find it like the like that today." He has not only a service in making available to the public what is, for the most part, a "miracle," but he has also made it more useful if it had been quickly acquired a practical knowledge of public affairs; but his contribution to British political life, in spite of his term of office as Chancellor of the Exchequer, was unimpressive. It was not until 1853, when he went to the Board of Control, and

Wood was out of office when the Sepoy Rebellion occurred; he did not resume the direction of Indian affairs until 1859. He refused to take the new task which faced him with the situation which had existed during his previous term at the Board. At that time, he said, the main objects of British policy in India were to develop the internal resources of the country, to improve education, to better the administration of justice, to push ahead with rail and telegraphic communication, to extend the irrigation system; whereas in 1859 the first objective must be "the melancholy work of reconstruction." This he proceeded

to undertake with fireless energy and an immensely detailed knowledge of local conditions, which he was at pains to keep up to date. In the course of the seven years of his term of office as Secretary of State, he pushed forward his reforms, remodelled the system of recruitment for the Indian Civil Service, and introduced the system of public works, reformed land tenure and revenue assessment, and remodelled the entire military structure. When, at length, he retired from active administration to become the first Lord Halifax, he had laid the foundations upon which the independent India of today was to be built. It is a curious fact that in November, 1868, Sir John Lawrence informed him of the proposal of an Indian aviator "that a member of your household be hinted at a grandson yet unborn—will some day succeed me as Governor General." This grandson, Lord Irwin, was to fulfill the prophecy in 1926 and to make, in his own way, a contribution no less vital to the evolution of independent India than Wood himself.

Not the least of his many merits of Dr. Moore's book is his freedom from all suspicion of hero worship. For all his great qualities, Wood was a man of his times, with the prejudices, the limitations, and the occasional pettinesses of the close circle of which he was a member. This is plainly brought out in a study which makes use of every scrap of available material, much previously unpublished. This is a definitive book; Dr. Moore's work will never have to be "done over again."

It is hardly necessary to open the first of these volumes to realize that one is faced with an *exposé en fond*. By the time he has turned over 105 pages of introduction and bibliography and reached the first of 1,260 pages of text even the most sceptical reader is likely to be convinced that M. Meyer is not to be taken lightly. This must be the longest *thèse de doctorat* on a subject of social history yet to appear, and one hopes it is not the precursor of even more inflated works. It comes dangerously near to being unmanageable, boasting as it does one chapter of 270 pages and another of 110. The immense researches that have gone into its production, and the scrupulous scholarship with which the results have been presented must nevertheless be admitted.

The first part is devoted to a detailed study of the juridical position of the Breton nobility. The great inquiries of the later seventeenth century provide the basis for an elaborate delineation of the class, supplemented by no investigation of the new creations of the eighteenth century. Here is a mass of information on rights of inheritance, *dérogation*, the purchase of noblesse *de robe*, outright grants of nobility by the King, and many other connected questions. Some of M. Meyer's conclusions are of great interest: he calculates that between 1700 and the Revolution no more than 300 families were added to the nobility of all methods, a result which puts in doubt some previous opinions on the subject of *noblement*. But the intrinsic value of the material hardly justifies the separate consideration of virtually every grant of *lettres de noblesse*. A process whose nature and importance could and should have been conveyed in a fraction of the space devoted to them. This apart, the first section of the book is the most uniformly successful; a definite subject is tackled, and a clear set of results obtained.

The tendency towards prolixity becomes more grave when M. Meyer attempts to describe the economic and social situation of the nobility, and the line of argument tends to be swamped by a mass of detail whose significance is not immediately obvious. What could have been a most exciting study fragments at times into a sad jumble of individual cases. This impression is perhaps heightened

by the integration of the statistical figures and charts with the main body of the text; in many ways a separate appendix would have been preferable. One may also note in passing a question of historical perspective raised by financial statistics of this period: the French *livre* can (very roughly) be compared to the English shilling during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The "vast fortunes" M. Meyer sees among the merchants of Nantes and St. Malo are therefore a good way from equalling those of leading English merchants of the period, and the inadequacy of the landed income of the Roban-Guéméné family is hardly as surprising as he seems to think.

Whatever criticisms one may make of the presentation, there is an enormous amount of information in the chapters devoted to the economic activity of the nobility. Diet, the grain trade, agricultural reform, feudal rights, *métayage*, and many other questions are considered in detail. Oddly enough the real peculiarity of Brittany, the extraordinary system of land tenure known as *domage congéable*, receives a disappointingly sketchy treatment, while argument is far from clear. The diligent reader will also discover a good deal in the final chapters on the political activity of the nobility, the psychology of the class, and its way of life. But between the available sources, and an unfortunate tendency to cite them repetitiously, the author's own organization is unlikely to help very much in the quest. It may well be true that the situation was too confused to be reduced to any clear-cut unity, but this heavy-handed approach destroys any such possibility. The relative failure, in an *exposé*, of this part of the book probably also reflects the disadvantages of taking a social class as a subject. The legal rights to noble status are one thing, and the social and economic role of the class quite another, from this point of view. The latter can only be understood in a larger framework, firstly of the province as a social unit, and then of French history as a whole. The great virtue of these studies on the history of a province is that they present a microcosm which has its own internal coherence, whereas M. Meyer inevitably gives us a very lop-sided view of Brittany in the eighteenth century.

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VISIT TO ANGKOR

Heuri Mouhot's *Diary*. Abridged and Edited by Christopher Pym. 160pp. Kuala Lumpur: Oxford University Press. 37s. 6d.

The Khmers, under pressure from that attacks, in the first half of the fifteenth century moved their capital away from Angkor to the neighbourhood of Phnompenh, the present centre of the Cambodian state. Many of the great temples which the Khmers had built, marvels of carved masonry, disappeared beneath the undrained waves of advancing jungle. Some temples in the Angkor region, however, survived, including the greatest of them all, Angkor Wat. Hindu and Mahayana Buddhist statues were replaced by the effrontery of Theravada Buddhism. Stone statues of Siva, Vishnu and Avalokitesvara gave way to wooden Buddha images, and in some of the Angkor temples worship went on.

When, during the course of the sixteenth century, European Catholic missionaries made their way to Cambodia, they heard stories of the ruins at Angkor, but they were unable to learn who had built these fabulous structures often attributed to a race of giants. The existence of Angkor continued to be well known to European residents in mainland South-east Asia. When Sir John Bowring visited Thailand in 1855, for example, he was told that

not far from Lake Thalesap [the Tonle Sap or Great Lake of Cambodia] are the ruins of a city, a palace, whose columns, pyramids, and pagodas remain, captured in marble, of such elaborate workmanship that the Cambodians who were produced by the fingers of angels, not men.

In 1859, two years after Bowring's *The Kingdom and People of Siam* was published, two papers dealing with the Angkor ruins were read to the Royal Geographical Society in London. Yet Christopher Pym remarks in the opening sentence of his introduction to the abridged reprint of Mouhot's diary in the Oxford in Asia Historical Reprint series that "Heuri Mouhot rediscovered the ancient Khmer civilization for the western world." This is certainly not done to; but he did produce the first detailed and illustrated account of the Angkor ruins. His

narrative, published in London by Murray in two volumes in 1864, following a preliminary version in a French periodical the year before, was widely read and inspired others to further investigation. This is the basis for Mouhot's reputation. The scientific study of Angkor begins not with Mouhot, a naturalist, but with Douillard de Lagrée and Francis Garnier, whose study of Angkor in 1866 was published in Garnier's *Voyage d'Exploration en Indo-Chine* in 1873. Mouhot's place in the history of exploration is justified less by his visit to Angkor in 1861 than by his travels in Laos in 1861. Mouhot's account of Luang Prabang undoubtedly inspired Francis Garnier and Auguste Pavie in their ambitions for the expansion of French rule up the Mekong Valley.

Mouhot was one of those great Victorians if we may be permitted to apply this term to a citizen of France who gave up all in the cause of exploration. In 1856, at the age of thirty, Mouhot married a niece of the African explorer Mingha Park, and he settled with his bride in Jersey. There, Christopher Pym suggests, he read Bowring's account of Siam and was inspired by it to plan a journey of discovery in mainland South-east Asia. He set out for Bangkok in 1858 and died in Laos, probably of malaria, in 1861. He never saw his wife and family again.

Mouhot was no stylist. His diary is curiously flat. Except for the final entry, when the dying traveller begs "have pity on me, oh my God!", it gives us little insight either into the author's character or the nature of the country which he is seeing. One might perhaps argue that Bowring on Thailand or Garnier on Indochina would better deserve reprinting than Mouhot. The decision having been made, however, the result is an admirable piece of book production. The reproductions of Mouhot's sketches of Angkor Wat as it was in 1860 cannot fail to fascinate the modern visitor.

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"(He) has found an ingenious way of writing amusing social comedy, from a justifiable God's-eye view." *Times Literary Supplement* "Extremely funny" *Evening Standard* 30s.

John Murphy's

The Gun-Runners

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Frederick L. Keefe's

The Investigating Officer

"A tremendous success on its own level and deserves something a good deal more profitable than a success d'estime" *R. G. G. Price Punch* 30s.

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"His mastery of narrative... I know of no more beautifully done accounts of the rewards and hazards of flying in a small craft" *A. P. Hyatt The Times* 30s.

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MIXED-UP MAUPASSANT

PAUL IONOTUS: *The Paradox of Maupassant*. 288pp. London Press. 35s.

"Why Maupassant"? one cannot help asking. It is difficult whether there was room for another biography of Maupassant in English: it is certain that *The Paradox of Maupassant* is not the kind of study that is wanted. There is already a very competent life of Maupassant in English by Francis Steegmuller and though it was published seventeen years ago the author of the book under review has nothing of substance to add by way of fact or interpretation. He indicates in his introduction that English is not his mother tongue and in spite of the assistance of friends, the style is not attractive nor are the arguments always easy to follow. There is an abuse of the familiar style and of words like "pals", "lady friends" and "phoney".

The division of the book into forty-eight chapters, many of them very brief, gives an impression of jerkiness. The material is not well arranged. The discussions of Maupassant's "fantastic nature, greatness and mediocrity" by Amand Lanoux and Bourget are disproportionately long and read like digressions. The author's attitude in Bourget appears to be coloured by political bias. He was a poor novelist and his political views were pretty far to the right, but there is a good deal more to be said for his criticism than is allowed here.

BEGINNERS' CONRAD

NEVILLE H. NEWHOUSE: *Joseph Conrad*. 143pp. Evans, 6s. (Paperback) 7s. 6d.)

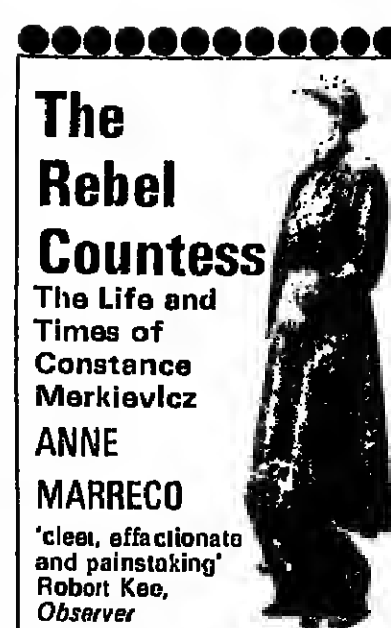
Unlike two earlier contributions to the "Literature in Perspective" series, on Jane Austen and Tennyson, *Joseph Conrad* seldom achieves the difficult task of keeping both the "ordinary reader" and the critic on their toes. For the former, however, Mr. Newhouse fulfils his primary aim of presenting his basic material attractively, wisely eschewing the first chronological approach (which would be anti-climactic in this case) and clearly defining the symbolic relation between Conrad's complex techniques and involved subject-matter. Though many a technical knoll will be cut for the non-specialist reader, he may be ill-served by the application of the phrase "interior monologue" not, as is customary, to the modern ways of suggesting the stream of consciousness, but as a blanket term

signifying how authors as diverse as Dickens, James and Conrad use characters "to speak their mind in words in order to inform us of their feelings." This case well exemplifies the terminological anarchy of the modern critical approach.

One important factual error is that Conrad was not twenty-three in 1892. His Second Mate's example twenty-two after sailing for France in British ships.

This is a useful and

sketch of Conrad's development and themes: but for the obtuse reader will certainly not be a substitute for the more enlightening and enlightening of Conrad's work, to which may be added the omission of A. J. Gurney's *Conrad the Novelist*.



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THE SAME OLD MANHATTAN

1,331pp. Frederick Muller. £2 10s.

The London Typographic Society have interestingly produced a *General Architectural Panorama of London from Regent Street to Westminster Abbey, 1849*, in a small, beautiful, twenty-two feet long by five and a half inches wide volume, from the editor, Miss M. B. Honeybourne, 16 Highlands, Road, Baines Heath, Lancashire, at 2s. 2s. Children on ponies, sheep and cattle, swans along *Nath's* *via triumphant*; of ladies cross it at *Isisore*. A crowd is chasing a bull round Piccadilly Circus but a posse of peevish is marching to help. What looks like a Jack-in-the-*Green* has an audience near Downing Street. Buildings that catch the eye are the Royal Polytechnic Institution, the Athenaeum without its old storey, *Batty's* new Treasury, and *Isisinate*.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Archaeology

THE NEW, GREEN HARBOR. *The Philippines Remembers*. By J. P. Tardiff. 128 pp. \$1.50.

Abundant as well as picturesque with its rich adventures, *The Shipwreck and Ralph Izard* is not among the worst. Bateman and N. A. are among the places. The editor introduces his travels in this manner. The young sailors provide the amusing, complete with some varied, if not possible, outlandish, comic.

THESE, PHILIP. *The Sea and the Shore*. 184 pp. \$1.50. C. C. C. Co.

The story of the Australian Heart Island expedition has already been told, though less fully, by Alfred W. Tidd, who shipped the *Palmyra* in 1914.

Mr. Temple, who was one of the guests that assailed the 3,000-ft. peak with wit and wit and humour, and he successfully evades the peculiar formation of the black regions where seals and penguins are only occasionally disturbed by seals and humans.

and Diophantine equations, pp. 13

whether they would prefer champagne or some other wine". At present, the inflationary pressure is still in the restaurant prices.

the first alternative is unlikely to be open to many readers of his book. This does not set out to be exhaustive or authoritative, but to provide a medium of information about the different kinds of wine and spirit and their sources. A personation as this would have been enough, but nowadays there are so many quacks to wine, and most of them more comprehensive and expertly put together than Mr. Holland's amiable book. There are also an irritating number of minor errors or statements of doubtful validity. Most of a Vint the leading be significant in a misnomer: Ch. Haut Brion was included in the original 1855 classification and not added subsequently. Ch. E. Mission Haut Brion is omitted from the list of the leading red grapes and it is at least an exaggeration to say that "all the finest burgundy exported goes to Belgium or Holland." It initiates the most interesting of the short chapters is that of the Brimingham.

which has flown the White Ensign. In addition, there are accounts of all

World Affairs
L. S. J. ARMIT. *Modern International Negotiation—Principles and Practice*. London: George Allen and Unwin, 1937. Pp. 300. 10s. 6d.

FAMILY FEELINGS

see only the tip of the iceberg and not the complexity. Professor Arthur L. ... has placed us all in his debt by his searching analysis of the multilateral techniques employed in the implementation of Article 33 of the Charter; they include the need of good offices of one or more States or individuals (e.g. the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the parliaments) and *ad hoc* conferences, the decisions of which may or may not be binding. Illustrations are supplied from the Swiss dispute, the China

India conflict, the displacement conference, etc., of which the author is formerly Head of the Indian Delegation, has peculiar first-hand knowledge. Two significant points emerge: (1) the search for peaceful settlement is not necessarily accompanied by renunciation of the use of force; and (2) the negotiating process, under the Charter, has almost entirely superseded the legalistic techniques of judicial or arbitral settlement envisaged in the League of Nations Covenant. This is a most commendable and timely programmatic contribution to the School of International Affairs.

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